

next time?" he asked. Like the marine he was, he remained focused and disciplined to the end.

He was proud and optimistic that a part of Jackson Park would be home to the new Obama Presidential Library. Not only would the library bring new investment and opportunities to the South Side, it would remind the young people, especially the Black and Brown children, who live there about what is possible for them.

In a 2015 column, Rev. Finney wrote: "The young among us today, many of them, will grow up believing anyone can become president, regardless of race. But some of us can remember when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that separate was not equal; some are old enough to have marched on Washington. Those events signaled the end of legal segregation in this country. But we never dreamed we would see a man of African heritage elected president—not in our lifetimes." The South Side, the community that was home to Harold Washington, Richard Wright, Mahalia Jackson, and many other pioneers for racial justice, was the right home, he said, for the President Obama's library.

Loretta and I offer our condolences to Rev. Finney's many friends, colleagues, students, and especially to his family: his son Leon III, his daughter Kristian Finney-Cooke, his son-in-law Dr. Gerald Cooke, and his three grandchildren.

Several years ago, McCormick Theological Seminary held a gathering to honor Rev. Finney. The occasion was the 20th anniversary of the program he had founded to train African-American ministers. Graduates of the program, including many community leaders, spoke of the profound influence Rev. Finney had had on their lives. When it came time for him to speak, Rev. Finney implored them to always remember to put the mission of the Gospel before their own egos. He recited one of his favorite Bible passages; the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, verse 18: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."

Leon Finney remained true to his mission. Martin Luther King and C.T. Vivian helped sketch a vision for a new Chicago, but Leon Finney worked for more than 50 years to make that better, fairer Chicago a reality. The good he achieved will benefit our city, our State, and our Nation for years to come.

REMEMBERING GALE SAYERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when Chicago Bears football great Gale Sayers was on the field, you knew something extraordinary would happen.

The press labeled him the "Kansas Comet." His teammates called him

"Magic." He did things in the NFL that had not been seen before, and few have come close to matching decades later.

Gale famously said that all he needed was 18 inches of daylight before he would change a game's dynamic. He was an unmatched running back, a star receiver, and his kick returning records remain to this day. But with everything with Gale, there was never enough time. His legendary career was cut short by injury.

He passed away recently, and today, we pay our respect to an extraordinary life.

Gale Eugene Sayers was born in Wichita, KS, in 1943. His father was a mechanic and a car polisher, and his mother was a homemaker. His family moved to Omaha, NE, in the early fifties, and Gale had his chance to play sports for the first time there. At the age of 13, he was playing kids who were 19 and 20 years old. Gale learned early on that he didn't want to be tackled by larger people, so he made sure he wasn't. In high school, he was not only a star running back, but he was also a track star. His record in long jump stood for 44 years.

Dozens of colleges offered Gale scholarships, but he chose Kansas University because he liked the coach and that it was relatively close to home. There, he was dubbed the Kansas Comet. He was the first player in NCAA Division 1A history to record a 99-yard run when he broke loose against the University of Nebraska in 1963. His two-time All-American honors led to the Bears picking him as the No. 4 overall pick in the 1965 NFL Draft.

Gale Sayers' NFL career began like lightning. He returned a punt 77 yards in his first preseason game, returned a kickoff 93 yards, and threw a touchdown pass with his nondominant hand. For the season, he led the league in all-purpose yards and set the league record at the time of 22 touchdowns, earning the rookie of the year award.

Wrigley Field is famously the home of the Chicago Cubs, but the greatest performance on that field was by Gale Sayers. The Chicago Bears played there from 1921 to 1970. In December 1965, Wrigley Field's playing surface was terrible. Players of both the Chicago Bears and San Francisco 49ers were struggling to keep their footing in the rain, but Gale wasn't one of them. He scored six touchdowns that day. He might have scored seven or eight, but with a lopsided score, Bears Coach George Halas sat him down. The 49ers went on to form a special defense just for Gale Sayers.

Sayers had many brilliant games, but one of the revolutionary moments his life was off the field when he was roommates with fullback Brian Piccolo.

Sayers and Piccolo were the NFL's first interracial roommate duo. When many lines were drawn between Black and White players, Sayers and Piccolo set a new path for the league. They became best friends.

On November 10, 1968, the Bears faced the 49ers again, and Sayers took a toss run play like he had done so many times. The 49ers defensive player put his shoulder into Sayers' knee, and it bent sideways. Sayers needed to be carted off the field. His knee would never be the same. The rehabilitation program was difficult, but with Piccolo's encouragement, Sayers was able to return the following year.

Gale returned to playing in 1969, earning the NFL Comeback Player of the Year, but Piccolo became ill. Piccolo was coughing for weeks, and he was diagnosed with embryonic cell carcinoma.

He underwent surgery, but the disease had spread to other organs. In May, Gale earned the George S. Halas Award, an award recognizing the league's most courageous player. In his speech for the award, Gale dedicated it to Brian Piccolo. Piccolo died on June 16, 1970, at the age of 26. Gale was a pallbearer at the funeral. The chapter on their friendship in Gale's autobiography, "I Am Third," is the basis of the 1971 movie "Brian's Song," the most-watched TV movie in history at the time.

In 1971, Gale suffered another knee injury, and it was never right again. He retired in 1972 at the age of 29. It is a testament to the extraordinary talent of Gale Sayers, only playing 68 games, that in 1977, he was the youngest player ever to be voted into the NFL Hall of Fame at the age of 34. His statistics still remain competitive and as records decades later.

After his NFL career, Gale returned to the University of Kansas as an assistant athletic director and student. He completed his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1975 and received a master's degree in educational administration in 1977. He was the athletic director at Southern Illinois University until 1981. Gale also supported the Cradle, a Chicago-area adoption agency that launched the Ardythe and Gale Sayers Center for African American Adoption in 1999. In 2007, Gale testified in Congress along with several other players that the NFL needed to improve its disability benefits system for retired players.

Sayers is survived by his wife Ardythe Elaine Bullard, his brothers Roger and Ron, his sons Timothy and Scott, his daughter Gale Lynne, and his stepsons Guy, Gaylon, and Gary.

TRIBUTE TO MARK GUETHLE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Mark Guethle probably isn't the sort of person you picture when you hear the word "feminist." Mark is a big guy: 6-foot-1, strong and muscular. It is easy to imagine him as the star linebacker he was in high school. He spent decades as a labor leader in the building trades, one of the toughest, most manhood-driven segments of the American labor movement. But Mark Guethle has worked harder to help good women get